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Sen. Stamas tours Gaylord snowmobile trails

Gaylord – State Sen. Tony Stamas (R-Midland) rode the North Branch Snowmobile Trail with several constituents yesterday to get a better look at the trails throughout the county.

Stamas had previously met snowmobile organizations throughout the northern part of his district, many who have concerns and new ideas about the trail system and its grooming process. Stamas was joined by Sil Mazzella, George Guess and Mark Dubie of Gaylord, as well as Larry Marzine of Alpena.

Stamas took a tour of the North Branch Trail to see up-close how the trails are being operated and cared for. The group traveled to the tip of the Pigeon River trail, spending about three-and-a-half hours snowmobiling.

“Northern Michigan relies heavily on snowmobiling during the winter to bring in tourists from around the state,” Stamas said. “It’s critical that our local snowmobile groups continue to work closely with the Department of Natural Resources to take care of the trails.”

Mazzella, owner of Mama Leone’s restaurant in Gaylord, agrees with Stamas on the importance of the snowmobile industry on Northern Michigan’s economy and said he is “glad to see that Tony Stamas is out there working with us on our issues.”

This week, Jan. 11-17, 2004, marks Snowmobile Safety Week. Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering exciting terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 300,000 registered snowmobiles, safe and responsible driving is essential for every enthusiast.

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